

CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (previously canceled)

19. (currently amended)) A pneumatic tire having a circumferentially extending tread pattern with at least first and second circumferentially extending ribs, each rib being located on an opposite side of a mid-circumferential plane of said tire:

each rib containing a plurality of symmetrical tread blocks separated by laterally extending grooves;

certain of the tread blocks in the first rib correspond to certain tread blocks in the second rib, each of said tread blocks ~~ribs~~ having leading and trailing end walls symmetrical with respect to a radial plane which passes through a midpoint of said tread block and through an axis of rotation of the tire;

at least one angled sipe formed in each of said certain tread blocks in the first and second ribs;

the sipes in the said tread blocks of the first rib being slanted toward the leading end wall and at an angle of between 2° and 15° with respect to said radial plane; ~~and~~

the sipes in the said tread blocks of the second rib being slanted toward the trailing end wall and at an angle with respect to said radial plane ~~in a substantially equal but opposite direction~~ to the angle of slant of the sipes in the corresponding tread blocks in the first rib, ~~to~~ whereby the angled sipes in the tread blocks in the first and second ribs compensate for residual aligning torque produced by other components of the tire; and

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wherein each of the said tread blocks in each rib is free of sipes which extend at an angle substantially opposite to that of the sipes formed therein whereby the sipes do not compensate for residual aligning torque within each of said individual tread blocks.

20. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the angle of the sipes in the first and second ribs is 7°.

21. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes have a depth of between 20% and 100% of the height of the tread blocks.

22. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes are substantially perpendicular to the mid-circumferential plane of the tire.

23. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes are formed at an angle with respect to the mid-circumferential plane of the tire.

24. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes each have a width of between 0.015 inches and 0.06 inches.

25. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 24 wherein the sipes have a width of approximately 0.03 inches.

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26. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes have a zig-zag pattern.

27. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes are formed in opposed shoulder ribs of the tire.

28. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes are formed in opposed intermediate ribs of the tire.

29. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes extend partially across the lateral width of the tread blocks.

30. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein certain of the laterally extending grooves have a generally V-shaped configuration.

31. (previously presented) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein a plurality of the sipes are formed in each of the tread blocks.

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